

Application No. 10/777,561
Amendment dated August 24, 2005
Reply to Office Action of June 8, 2005
Express Mail No. EV 722668232 US

Remarks:

Claims 1-24 were previously pending. The Examiner rejected claims 1-3, 9-11, and 17-19 and objected to claims 4-8, 12-16, and 20-24. Applicant has canceled claims 4, 12, and 20, without prejudice or disclaimer, and amended claims 1, 5, 9, 13, 17, and 21. Claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-19, and 21-24 are currently pending.

The Examiner objected to claims 4-8, 12-16, and 20-24 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's consideration of the claims and has amended certain claims to incorporate the Examiner's suggestions. In particular, Applicant amended independent claim 1 to include the features recited in dependent claim 4 and amended dependent claim 5 to be dependent upon independent claim 1. Similarly, Applicant amended independent claim 9 to include the features recited in dependent claim 12 and amended dependent claim 13 to be dependent upon independent claim 9. Applicant further amended independent claim 17 to include the features recited in dependent claim 20 and amended dependent claim 21 to be dependent upon independent claim 17.

Applicant submits that the above-discussed amendments should put independent claims 1, 9, and 17 in a condition for allowance. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from the discussed independent claims and therefore, should also be in a condition for allowance.

In view of this response and the remarks herein, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-3, 5-11, 13-19 are in allowable condition and requests a corresponding Notice of Allowance. In the event of further questions, the Examiner is urged to call the undersigned. Any additional fee which might be due in connection with this application should be applied against our Deposit Account No. 19-0522.

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Respectfully submitted,

HOVEY WILLIAMS LLP

BY: 

Thomas B. Luebbering, Reg. No. 37,874
2405 Grand Blvd., Suite 400
Kansas City, Missouri 64108
(816) 474-9050

ATTORNEYS FOR APPLICANT

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